

Delaware Public Health Laboratory Viral Collection Kit

This kit is to be used for:

1. Herpes and/or Varicella Zoster Virus
2. Influenza and Coronavirus (NP, OP, Anterior Nasal Swab)
3. Bordetella species (Pertussis)- (**Dump out the transport media before putting the swab in capped tube as it contains antibiotics**).

DO NOT USE sterile transport media for bacterial testing, such as Strep or Tuberculosis cultures.

1. Kit contains:
 - 1 requisition form
 - 1 screw-capped tube with 2ml of sterile transport media
 - 2 flexible flocked swabs
2. Write **patient name** and **date/time collected** on the tube. All specimens submitted must have two (2) unique identifiers to include name, date of birth, barcode or other unique identifier on the specimen.
3. Complete requisition form. Please indicate which test is requested. The requisition form can be found on our website at: <https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dph/lab/files/testreq.pdf>
4. For collection of nasopharyngeal specimen insert the swab into the posterior nasopharynx and rotate it gently. Contact time should be 10 seconds or at least until the patient coughs.
5. Place the swab into the screw-capped tube containing transport medium. Ensure that the caps are closed completely and the specimen is not leaking.
6. Place specimens along with requisition back into original biohazard specimen bag. Immediately place in a refrigerator (2-8°C). If influenza real-time PCR specimens will not be received within 72 hours they MAY be frozen.
7. Arrange for transportation of specimens to the Delaware Public Health Laboratory as soon as possible after collection. Courier specimen pick up locations can be found at the following web address: <https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dph/lab/files/courieroutes.pdf>.
8. Under FDA guidelines for the influenza real-time PCR method, samples should be received in the Laboratory within 72 hours at 2-8°C, or frozen. Samples received after 72 hours that have not been frozen properly will still be tested, but considered for surveillance purposes only.
9. Contact the Virology section for specific collection of other sources at 302-223-1520.